

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 192056Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4375
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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USEEC

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SUBJ: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SESSION JANUARY 16-20, 1978: EC
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRESENTS WORK PROGRAM OF COUNCIL FOR
NEXT SIX MONTHS

REF: BRUSSELS 613

1. SUMMARY; JANUARY 18 THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP)
HEARD STATEMENT BY EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT, DANISH FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDERSEN, ON COUNCIL'S WORK PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT
SIX MONTHS. THE STATEMENT EMPHASIZED DEVELOPMENT OF EC
RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE
COOPERATION WITH THE U.S., NEED FOR FURTHER COORDINATION
OF EC-NINE FOREIGN POLICIES, AND INSURANCE OF PRACTICAL
PROGRESS OVER AS WIDE A FIELD POSSIBLE TOWARD OBJECTIVES
LAID DOWN IN EC TREATIES AND SUBSEQUENT COMMUNITY
DECISIONS. ANDERSEN SAID THAT WHILE EC MEMBER STATES
SEEK TO EXTEND RANGE OF THEIR COOPERATION IN FOREIGN
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POLICY, NATO, RATHER THAN EC, REMAINS THE PROPER FORUM
FOR CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATING TO SECURITY OF
WESTERN EUROPE. AS EXPECTED, THE EP GENERALLY WELCOMED
ANDERSEN'S REMARKS BUT TOOK THE OCCASION TO MAKE SUG-
GESTIONS ON STEPS TO BE ADOPTED TO OVERCOME SOME OF THE
COMMUNITY'S ILLS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS FIRST MAJOR STATEMENT TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT JANUARY 18, EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANDERSEN MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS REGARDING THE CURRENT STATE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE EC COUNCIL'S PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS UNDER THE DANISH PRESIDENCY:

(1) EP DIRECT ELECTIONS -- THE COUNCIL WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ADOPT A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION AS REGARDS A DATE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETS IN COPENHAGEN IN APRIL.

(2) RELATIONS WITH THE EXTERNAL WORLD -- ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS REVEALED EUROPE'S VULNERABILITY AND ITS DEPENDENCE UPON COOPERATION WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. COOPERATION WITHIN THE EC STILL HAS NOT BROUGHT ABOUT THE MUTUAL SOLIDARITY WHICH HAS BEEN THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, THE EC HAS SUCCEEDED IN WITHSTANDING THE TEMPTATIONS OF NATIONAL PROTECTIONISM AND DISREGARD OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD. MOREOVER, THE COUNCIL WILL WORK INCREASINGLY TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

(3) RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. -- ANDERSEN HEAVILY UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE US-EC RELATIONS: "RELATIONS WITH THE USA PLAY A CENTRAL PART. A LARGE NUMBER OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED BY COOPERATION WITH THE USA. THE PAST YEAR HAS SEEN A DEFINITE ADVANCE IN RELATIONS

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BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE USA, BOTH IN THE FIELD OF TREATY COOPERATION AND IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE PRESIDENTS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE USA. PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT VISIT TO BRUSSELS WAS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF AMERICA'S POSITIVE INTEREST IN EUROPEAN COOPERATION. WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO REGARD THIS WITH THE GREATEST SATISFACTION."

(4) INTERNAL ACHIEVEMENTS -- THE COMMUNITY'S INTERNAL ACHIEVEMENTS, ALTHOUGH NOT ALL THAT MIGHT BE HOPED FOR, NONETHELESS CONSTITUTE "CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS".

(5) EMU -- THERE SHOULD BE INCREASINGLY GREATER HARMONIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES. THE MONETARY SNAKE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT "CONSTITUTES THE BASIS BY WHICH THE COMMUNITY CAN MAKE A GRADUAL RETURN TO TRUE COOPERATION ON MONETARY POLICY".

(6) AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES -- THE COUNCIL WILL TRY TO KEEP POLICIES IN THESE AREAS "IN LINE WITH THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE COMMUNITY" AND WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE UNREASONABLE STRAIN PLACED ON BOTH THE

COMMUNITY BUDGET AND THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL MARKET BY THE PAYMENT OF MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS. ON FISHERIES, THE COUNCIL WILL, UNDER THE DANES, STRIVE FOR A POLICY "WHICH IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE AND EQUAL ACCESS TO COMMON COMMUNITY WATERS FOR ALL FISHERMEN".

(7) COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT -- SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS POSED BY ENLARGEMENT REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL WILL AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRESENT EC MEMBER STATES. SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE IS

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ESSENTIAL DURING THE DANISH PRESIDENCY, SINCE "THE COMMUNITY'S CREDIBILITY IS AT STAKE HERE". THERE SHOULD ALSO BE EARLY MOVEMENT TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

(8) DANISH PARTICIPATION IN NORDIC COOPERATION -- THIS DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH OR OBSTRUCT EC COOPERATION AND IN FACT GIVES THE COMMUNITY MORE INTIMATE CONTACT WITH NON-EC SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

(9) GATT -- SUCCESS OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS DEPENDS UPON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, PRIMARILY THE U.S. AND JAPAN. SMOOTH PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL REQUIRE

CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY.

(10) UNEMPLOYMENT -- ACTION TO COMBAT EXCESSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT WILL BE GIVEN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY UNDER THE DANISH PRESIDENCY. IN SO DOING, EFFORT SHOULD BE AIMED
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AT PROTECTING EXPOSED INDUSTRIES THROUGH STATE SUPPORT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE COMMUNITY'S CHIEF TRADING PARTNERS.

(12) NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE -- COUNCIL INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A CONSTRUCTIVE COMMON COMMUNITY POSITION IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

(13) POLITICAL COOPERATION -- EC-NINE POLITICAL COOPERATION HAS MADE MAJOR ADVANCES PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS CSCE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE COMMUNITY WILL STRIVE TO ADOPT POSITIONS AIMED AT CONTRIBUTING TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE MID-EAST PROBLEM. UNDER THE DANISH PRESIDENCY, THE EC WILL GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO CONTINUING PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA TO CHANGE ITS POLICY. FINALLY, DENMARK ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S BEING INVOLVED IN THE NINE'S FOREIGN POLICY COOPERATION.

(14) SECURITY -- ANDERSEN NOTED THAT NATO REMAINS THE FORUM FOR DISCUSSING SECURITY MATTERS OF CONCERN TO WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: "IT WOULD BE A MISINTERPRETATION AND A MISUNDERSTANDING TO ATTRIBUTE MILITARY AMBITIONS TO THE COMMUNITY. MILITARY QUESTIONS FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF NATO, WHICH WILL FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE REPRESENT THE SOLE CREDIBLE BASIS FOR A WEST EUROPEAN DEFENCE POLICY. SPLITTING THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE BY MILITARY DISCUSSIONS AMONGST THE NINE WOULD IN NO WAY SERVE SECURITY AND DETENTE IN EUROPE."

3. PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM ALL GROUPS GENERALLY WELCOMED THE FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT MADE BY ANDERSEN. HOWEVER, THEY LAID PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR THE EC AND EUROPEAN COUNCIL TO FIX A SPECIFIC DATE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EP. MANY MP'S ARGUED FOR MORE CONCRETE
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PROPOSALS FROM THE EC COUNCIL FOR OVERCOMING THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC ILLS, IN PARTICULAR INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. FEW ARGUED WITH THE PRIORITIES SET BY ANDERSEN, BUT WITH RESPECT TO EC ENLARGEMENT SOME MP'S

EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LACK OF MENTION OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS OF AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY. SEVERAL MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE EC HAS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS WITH TURKEY UNDER THE PRESENT EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BUT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT FORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN EC AND TURKISH OFFICIALS UNDER THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL. SPOKESMEN FOR SOME POLITICAL GROUPS NOTED THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT SIX MONTHS THEY WILL BE TAKING A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE WORK OF THE EC COUNCIL AND WILL PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS THEY THINK WARRANTED. HINTON

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